

Reminder: 5th Annual Ladies' Day Service!

Saturday, January 25, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Palm Desert Country Club. Theme: “*Grace, Gratitude, Growth*”

Preacher Update: November & December 2013

- *Preach Sunday a.m. and Sunday p.m.*
- *Tuesday morning Bible study*
- *Tuesday evening Bible study*
- *Wednesday evening Bible study*
- *Thursday morning Bible study*
- *Other Bible studies with non-members*
- *Many, many hours spent helping brethren work through different problems*

January Birthdays

5 John Aguiar 14 Juanita Small 21 Kelly Peña

January Anniversaries

8 Bob and Debbie Pescador 24 Al and Sara Peña

(Note: if anyone is “missed” here, let Jim know)

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Church of Christ

81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

Preacher
Carlos Peña

(Address Service Requested)

Indio Informer

Vol. 25 No. 2

January 12, 2014

**2014...May we keep our focus on
Jesus and His word**

Don't Hinder Me

(Adapted from Charles L. Morton)

**“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you
free...Thy word is truth” (John 8:32; 17:17).**

The point of this inspired language is that, for an accountable person to be saved, he must intelligently understand and obey the Gospel of Christ (cf. Romans 1:16). This means that the Gospel can be understood, since God does not require the impossible. Yet, it continues to be misunderstood by many people. Sometimes we are our own worst enemies. Paul told Timothy to be gentle with those who “opposed themselves” (2 Timothy 2:22). At other times those we may have come to trust may do us a disservice. Paul wrote to the Galatians that teachers were “hindering” them from obeying the Truth (Galatians 5:7). Consider some ways we may hinder our understanding of God’s Will (and thus our salvation).

We can hinder our understanding of God’s Word simply by not studying it. The truth is revealed now via the written Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17), not by dreams and visions (Galatians 1:6-9). Since it is in a Book, there is simply no way to understand it without individual diligence and effort (2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11). The expression, “Nobody can understand the Bible” does not convey any idea found in the Bible. Such an attitude usually suggests that one has not put forth consistent effort in trying to understand it. We must be willing to exercise effort and self-discipline to come to understand God’s Word.

We can hinder our understanding of God's Word by approaching it with preconceived ideas about what we think it teaches. Some say that "it doesn't make any difference what a person believes, anyway" but this does not harmonize with what the Master said (cf. Matthew 7:21-23). We will have difficulty understanding such important topics as the deity of Jesus, the resurrection of the body, baptism, the one church, worship, the organization of the church, the purpose of life, and how to become a Christian if we have decide what we believe before we ever pick up the Bible. We have to let God tell us what to believe.

We can hinder our understanding of God's Word by allowing the god of this world to blind our minds (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). This life's cares, riches and pleasures choke the Word of God to death in the hearts of many people (Luke 8:14). If we're too busy making a living for this life to think about the next, we're hindering our salvation. Some are also blinded by prejudice (Romans 10:1-3) and others by popularity. These would rather be popular with man than enjoy the fellowship with God (John 12:42-43).

What a fearful thing it is to fail to know, understand, and obey the Truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

"Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding"
(Proverbs 23:23)

TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR 2014

(Shared by Wendy Cortes)

With all the problems the World is facing, it can be unsettling to the mind. Today, I share with you ten predictions that are true!

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor the praises of His people.

5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Isn't it great to remember Who is really in control, and that;
"the Word of the Lord endures forever."
(1 Peter 1:25)

Being Sensible (from Memory Delight)

Jonathan Edwards, the 18th-century revivalist, sat down at age 17 and penned 21 resolutions by which he would live his life. Throughout his lifetime he would add to this list until, by his death, he had 70 resolutions.

He put at the top of his list: "Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat Him by His grace to enable me to keep these Resolutions.... Remember to read over these Resolutions once a week."

Edwards didn't casually make New Year's resolutions with an expectation of eventually breaking them. Each week he did a "self-check." He regularly summed up how he was doing and sought God's help in the process.

Christ calls us to commit to actively work at becoming conformed to His image. This coming year resolve to become a person committed to a godly transformation. How can we do that? Win our battle every morning. Meaning, when we get up in the morning, the first things we should do is set our mind in the right direction.